

hf happenings 291

February 08

HF Happenings via Yahoo Groups HF_Happenings-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

South African Radio League Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union Region 1



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QSL Bureau News

Thus far, no volunteers have come forward to assist with the sorting of QSL cards. The two remaining sorters have indicated that they no longer can keep up with the pressure of incoming cards with result delays are inevitable.

We again appeal to volunteers to come forward to assist with the sorting of QSL cards at the bureau for just 2 days in every month.

For those who wish to collect cards and or discuss issues with the current sorters, the attendance days for the next 3 months are as follows: 11 and 25 March, 8 and 22 April and 6 and 25 May.

For non-members, all cards currently in the bureau will be taken to the SARL AGM in Bloemfontein on 12 April. We will request attendees from the various clubs around the country to take the cards with them so you can retrieve cards from their respective head quarters.

We also have the problem of sitting with many under stamped envelopes for cards that the Post Office refuses to accept for posting. Kindly make use of the aforementioned dates to phone the sorters to check if your envelope is correctly stamped.

We again appeal for volunteers to come forward and assist us in sorting cards so we can at least keep the bureau running for your benefit.

It will be appreciated if you can fill the gap, to please phone Francois, ZS6BUU at 011 679 5260 if you would like to offer your services.

SARL Hamnet 40 m Simulated Emergency Contest

This SSB Contest is open to all Radio Amateurs in South Africa, Namibia, Botswana, Zimbabwe, Swaziland, Mozambique, Lesotho, Marion Island and South African Antarctica. Only contacts with these areas will count.

The contest runs on the first Sunday of March from 12:00 to 14:00 UTC or 14:00 to 16:00 CAT. This year the contest will be held on 2 March 2008.

Categories. a. Single operator stationary mobile; b. Single operator portable; c. Multi-operator portable; d. Single operator base station or e. Short Wave Listener (SWL)

Antennas. Antennas are limited to antennas with less than unity gain relative to a dipole.

Stationary Mobile stations shall use antennas that rely solely on their vehicles



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for support and shall not exceed a height of 5 metres above ground. Portable station antennas may not be erected and installed before the day of the contest and no permanent man-made structure may be used to either house equipment or for antenna supports.

Power. Stationary Mobile and Portable stations shall operate from the same site for the duration of the contest and all power used shall comply with the requirements for Field Stations in the general rules.

Exchange. Signal report followed by a three-figure number as follows:

Category a: Starting with 201 for the first contact

Category b: Starting with 401 for the first contact

Category c: Starting with 601 for the first contact

Category d: Starting with 801 for the first contact

Non-participants start with 001 for the first contact

Scoring. Scoring consists of points accumulated from all contacts, multiplied by a multiplier. Contact with a station in:

Category a, b and c in own area = 3 points; Category a, b and c in another area = 4 points; Category d or non-participant in own area = 1 point and Category d or non-participant in another area = 2 points.

Areas are as defined in the following list: Area 1: ZS1; Area 2: ZS2; Area 3: ZS3; Area 4: ZS4; Area 5: ZS5; Area 6: ZS6; Area 7 (eastern group): 3DA, 7P, C9, Z2, ZS8 and Area 8 (western group): A2, V5, ZS7.

The multiplier consists of the number of call areas worked, multiplied by a power multiplier. The power multiplier is 2 for an output power of over 50 W PEP, and 3 for an output power of less than 50 W PEP.

Awards. Certificates will be presented to the highest scoring station in each category, provided that there are at least three entries in that category.

Sponsor. Hamnet Eastern Cape, Al Akers, ZS2U, 53 Clarence Street, Westering, Port Elizabeth, 6025. E-Mail: contest@zs2pe.co.za. Closing date for log submission is 17 March 2008

There is a MS Excel spreadsheet available to help you with the scoring. Contact Carel, ZS3OBE abco@kingsley.co.za or Dennis, ZS4BS zs4bs@netactive.co.za for a copy.

DXCC News

The 3Y0E operation from Bouvet Island (December 2007 - February 2008) has been approved for DXCC credit. If you had cards rejected for this operation, please send an e-mail to the ARRL DXCC Desk, dxcc@arrl.org, to have your DXCC record updated.

DX from Africa

Reunion Island, FR. Jean Mary, F8CHM will sign FR5EZ from Reunion Island (AF-016, DIFO FR-001 for the French Overseas Islands Award, WLOTA LH-1812 between 22 February and 21 March. He will be active on all HF bands plus 50 MHz, using CW and SSB. QSL via home call.

Reunion Island, FR. Look for Jean-Pierre, F5HIJ, to be active as FR/F5HIJ from Bernica, near Saint-Paul, between 3 and 31 March. He will use a FT-897 and 2 x 20 m dipole. It is suggested to look for him during his evenings between 18:00 - 20:00 UTC.



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Kenya, 5Z. Sigi, DL7DF with his XYL Sabine will be on a DX holiday to Kenya from 27 February to 11 March. The location will be Diani Beach at the coastline of Kenya. He will be active as 5Z4HW (holiday style) on 160 - 10 m CW, SSB, RTTY and SSTV. Sigi will use an IC735 and linear TY900, R7 vertical and 18 m tower for 160 and 80 m. QSL via home call, direct or bureau. Visit his web page at <http://www.DL7DF.com>

Madeira Island, CT3. Rosel, DL3KWR and Hardy, DL3KWF will be active again as CT3/DL3KWR and CT3/DL3KWF from Madeira Island (AF-014, DIP MA-001, WLOTA LH-0053) between 6 and 20 March. They plan to operate mostly CW and digital modes on 12, 17 and 30 metres. Hardy will also try RTTY and PSK-31. QSL via home calls. E-mail requests for bureau cards can be sent to dl3kwr-at-darc.de or dl3kwf-at-darc.de respectively.

Canary Islands, EA8. Jim, N6TJ will be active from the Canary Islands (AF-004) as EE8Z during the CQ WPX CW Contest (24 and 25 May), as a Single-Op/All-Band entry. QSL via VE3HO.

Madagascar, 5R (AF-013). Franck, F4DBJ, will be active as 5R8HT from Ivato between 30 March and 17 April. His bands and modes of activity were not provided, but it was reported that he plans to activate Nattes Island (AF-090).

Atlantic Ocean Tour. Tom, KC0W, who moved to St. Helena Island in early September and has been active as ZD7X, has been given permission by the Tristan da Cunha government to visit Tristan for an extended stay. He is expected to leave St. Helena sometime in late April. Therefore, Tristan will be his next DX location. Tom hopes to operate from Tristan for a period of 4 - 6 months and plans to be VERY active from Tristan as he was from St. Helena. He states, "My next planned DX locations after Tristan will be the three islands of South Sandwich, South Orkney and South Georgia. My goal is to activate each island for at least two weeks straight. This three island DXpedition is in the planning stages right now. I hope to stage this whole operation out of the Falkland Islands."

South Africa, ZS. John, G3LZQ, will be active as ZS3/G3LZQ from McDougalls Bay from 23 February to 15 March. Activity will be on all bands, especially 160 and 80 metres, using CW. He plans to be active in the CQ 160 Metre SSB contest and the upcoming ARRL DX contest. QSL via operator's instructions.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 25 February to 3 March 2008

NCCC Sprint
03:30 - 04:00 UTC 29 Feb
Mode: CW
Bands: (see rules)
Classes: (none)
Exchange: (see rules)
Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults
Submit logs by: 2 March 2008
E-mail logs to: (none)
Post log summary at:

www.hornucopia.com/3830score/
Mail logs to: (none)
Find rules at: www.ncccsprint.com/rules.htm

ARRL International DX SSBContest
00:00 UTC 1 Mar to 24:00 UTC 2 Mar
Mode: SSB
Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m
Classes: Single Op All Band (QRP/Low/High);
Single Op Single Band; Single Op Assisted;
Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi



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Max power: HP: 1500 watts; LP: 150 watts;
QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: W/VE: RS and state or province;
non-W/VE: RS and power

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 3 points per QSO

Multipliers: W/VE: Each DXCC country once
per band; Non-W/VE: Each state, District of
Columbia, VE province/territory once per
band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 April 2008

E-mail logs to: DXPhone[at]arrl[dot]org

Mail logs to: ARRL Intl DX Contest, Phone,
ARRL, 225 Main St., Newington, CT 06111,
USA

Find rules at:

www.arrl.org/contests/rules/2008/intldx.html

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint

04:00 - 04:29 UTC 1 Mar; 04:30 - 04:59
UTC 1 Mar; 05:00 - 05:29 UTC 1 Mar and
05:30 - 06:00 UTC 1 Mar

Mode: CW

Bands: 40 and 20 m

Classes: (none)

Max power: 5 watts

Exchange: RST, Serial No and suffix of pre-
vious QSO ("QRP" for 1st QSO)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 1 point per km

Multipliers: 1 point per new station worked
on each band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total multiplier points

Submit logs by: 8 March 2008

E-mail logs to: ru2fm[at]rambler[dot]ru

Mail logs to: Valentin Kovalchuk, Inter-
natsionalnaya str. 29 kv 39, Kaliningrad,
236011, Russia

Find rules at:

<http://grp.ru/modules/sections/index.php?p=viewarticle&artid=7&page=1>

Open Ukraine RTTY Championship

22:00 - 23:59 UTC 1 Mar (Low Band); 00:00 -
01:59 UTC 2 Mar (Low Band) and 08:00 -
11:59 UTC 2 Mar (High Band)

Mode: RTTY

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15 and 10 m

Classes: Single Op Multi-Band; Single Op
Single Band; Multi-Op Multi-Band

Exchange: 2-letter regional abbrev (state,
province or canton, etc) and Serial No (re-
start serial no for high band)

Work stations: Once per band per period

QSO Points: 2 points per QSO; 10 points per
new region once per band per period

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total points

Submit logs by: 3 April 2008

E-mail logs to:

krs[at]model[dot]poltava[dot]ua

Mail logs to: George Ignatov (UT1HT), P.O.
Box 87, Kremenchug-21 39621, Ukraine

Find rules at:

www.ucc.zp.ua/rtty2008rules_eng.htm

DARC 10-Meter Digital Contest

11:00 - 17:00 UTC 2 Mar

Mode: RTTY, Amtor, Clover, PSK31, Pactor

Bands: 10 m Only

Classes: Single Op; SWL

Exchange: RST and Serial No

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: Each WAE/DCXX area; Each
W/VE call area

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO
points x total mults

Submit logs by: 1 April 2008

E-mail logs to: df5bx[at]darc[dot]de

Mail logs to: Werner Ludwig, DF5BX, P.O.
Box 1270, 49110 Georgsmarienhuetten, Ger-
many

Find rules at:

www.darc.de/referate/ukw-funksport/sonder/tei-digi.htm

Next Week's Contests

AGCW YL-CW Party, 19:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 Mar



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NCCC Sprint, 03:30 - 04:00 UTC 7 Mar
RSGB Commonwealth Contest, 10:00 UTC 8 Mar to 10:00 UTC 9 Mar
AGCW QRP Contest, 14:00 - 20:00 UTC 8 Mar
Oklahoma QSO Party, 14:00 UTC 8 Mar to 02:00 UTC 9 Mar and 13:00 - 19:00 UTC 9 Mar
EA PSK31 Contest, 16:00 UTC 8 Mar to 16:00 UTC 9 Mar
SOC Marathon Sprint, 18:00 - 24:00 UTC 8 Mar
Idaho QSO Party, 19:00 UTC 8 Mar to 19:00 UTC 9 Mar
North American RTTY Sprint, 00:00 - 04:00 UTC 9 Mar
SKCC Weekend Sprintathon, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 9 Mar
UBA Spring CW Contest, 07:00 - 11:00 UTC 9 Mar
NSARA Contest, 11:00 - 1500Z 9 Mar and 17:00 - 21:00 UTC 9 Mar
Wisconsin QSO Party, 18:00 UTC 9 Mar to 01:00 UTC 10 Mar
CLARA and Family HF Contest, 17:00 UTC 11 Mar to 17:00 UTC 12 Mar and 17:00 UTC 15 Mar to 17:00 UTC 16 Mar

IARU Reg 1 HF Band Plan

What is a band plan? It is a plan to manage the frequencies allocated to radio amateurs by using mode or bandwidth. It is an agreement between the member societies of IARU Region 1 taking note of requirements from IARU Regions 2 and 3. It is a gentlemen's agreement and cannot legally be enforced.

The present IARU Reg 1 HF Band plan came into effect on 1 January 2006 after approval at the 2005 IARU Reg 1 Conference in Davos, Switzerland. It covers the amateur radio frequency spectrum from 135 kHz to 30 MHz, and per band segment gives an indication of where various transmission modes can be used - typically CW, digital modes and SSB.

Some frequency allocations have footnotes allowing users to operate different to what is stated in the allocation. An example here is the 10 MHz band. The footnote states "The band segment 10120 kHz to 10140 kHz may be used for SSB transmissions in the area of Africa south of the equator during local daylight hours." The 10 MHz band is a non-contest band and used for digital communication (CW is digital) by the radio amateurs worldwide.

The 18 and 24 MHz bands are also non-contesting bands, but voice communication is allowed on these bands.

The IARU Reg 1 HF Band plan can be found on www.sarl.org.za or you can request a copy from Dennis, ZS4BS at zs4bs@netactive.co.za. It is in PDF format. It is a good idea to have a copy handy next to your radio, so ensuring that you stay within the allocation for the mode you are using and not causing interference to other users on the band.



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